

Membership

Meet and greet updates

Thank you to everyone who attended our meet and greet on 16th May. It was good to see some new faces and learn about the issues that are most affecting you, and what you'd like to see done about them.



We have created a report on the suggestions and feedback that were offered, and we will be implementing what we can now and creating a plan to move forward with.

Because of the meeting and your feedback, you will now be able to find e-bulletins on our website, starting with this edition, they will be accessible here: <https://equallives.org.uk/news/>

Local meet ups

Local meet ups have started too, and so far we have been to Thetford and Great Yarmouth. These tend to run on Thursdays and run between 11 am and 1pm. You can drop in any time between those hours and stay for as long or as little as you like.

The next one is planned for 20th June in Dereham at the Memorial Hall. All welcome!

New Group!

Hazel and Kimberly met with Arthur and his partner from North Lopham to discuss his plans for an exercise and social group in his village. We met at the Kings Head North Lopham where the first group meetings will take place. If

you're on our membership email list and live in the area you'll receive details about this soon.

Re-vamped Group

The Skype Group which had folded in the past has been given a new lease of life by valued member Mike Cox. The first session will be held on Wednesday 19th June at 14:30 – to join in, use the Skype name 'llewfawr'. If you'd like to find out more contact Mike on micox@stollard.plus.com or get in touch with us and we can pass on the message.

Martin's 'indoor' Skydive

Member and Trustee Martin Symons completed yet another challenge! You can find the video here:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ve-Q0JbPEMg&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3nKOJTSDohdjXVH8Iz4iXYVEi5zh3R9Q0SSM6_WHkNmqq1aKs4cctjIZg

There is no stopping Martin, what do you think he will do next?



Events

Kimberly and Hazel recently attended the Suffer Deaf Festival in the Forum, Norwich. It was so good to meet the different types of people who were there and find out more about the community. We now have some staff training lined up for British Sign Language!

We also attended the UEA Disability Sports Day where we saw faces old and new. People had a lot of fun on the accessible bikes.

Upcoming:

Opening Doors AGM 19th June 2019 at the Willow Centre, Cringleford 10:30 – 13:00

Norwich ILG AGM 19th June 2019 11:00 Central Baptist Church, St Mary's Plain Norwich

The Norwich Access Group next meeting is Tuesday 11th June at Silver Road Community Centre at 12.15pm - 2pm. If you are passionate about improving access in Norwich and surrounding areas and want to get active, please come along. For more information email norwichaccessgroup@gmail.com

Funding news

We have recently been calling out to local businesses to support us with our membership. This could be a donation, equipment or to sponsor a project. If you think you know a business that would like to support Equal Lives, please get in touch with Kimberly Myhill on Kimberly.myhill@equallives.org.uk

You can also now find donation boxes at our form fill outreach or drop ins, if you'd like to support us that way.

Any donation is hugely appreciated!

We are also in the initial stages of preparing a bid for a gyms/sports and healthcare centres project; following feedback from the public and membership.

Art project fund run by NCC The Arts Project Fund supports initiatives and events in all art forms and multi-artform areas. This includes the development and promotion of a wide range of arts activity in communities throughout Norfolk.

Find out more here: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding/arts-grants-and-funding/arts-project-fund>

Grants for disability Equipment for Independent Living

<https://www.disability-grants.org/disability-equipment-independent-living.html>

Dr Meena Sharma Memorial Foundation

Established in memory of Dr. Meena Sharma with estate left by her, to help and provide for poor, deprived, disadvantaged women and children in U. K. And India.

<https://secure.thebiggive.org.uk/charity/view/7167/dr-meena-sharma-memorial-foundation>

Projects

Discussions from the meet and greet meant we have even more potential partners for our plans to launch a project around this work. In the meantime, we have an active survey which would really help us with our funding bid. If you can complete it, or share it with someone who would like to, we would really appreciate it.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VZQL3R5>

The survey is showing some interesting results so far and we look forward to finishing the bid.

We want to run the project to support for people to exercise, whether it be training for gyms, 121 support to attend a gym, transport or information and guidance. We want to put an end to the gap in provision in this area for disabled people.

Other

Tribute to George

As you may know, we recently lost a valued member of our community and beloved friend, George. A tribute in the EDP following his death can be found on the link below.

George Saunders <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/obituaries/tributes-as-norfolk-disability-campaigner-dies-at-67-1-6053020>

Disability Pride Digital Photographic Exhibition 2019

Do you have a disability and enjoy photography?



Do you have photographs of disabled people in Norfolk?

Norwich Independent Living Group are planning a Photographic Exhibition in the Norwich Millennium Library and are looking for images to exhibit, which will form part of the Disability Pride Event on Sunday 29th September 2019. The closing date for entries

is **15th August 2019**.

For information please email disabilitypride@equallives.org.uk

Volunteer positions

We are looking for volunteers in our Development Team to support us with admin such as:

- Envelope stuffing
- Organisation of membership packs
- Sending out letters and emails to support the Development Workers
- Inputting data or using social media

And much more! Call in for an informal discussion and ask for Kimberly or Hazel
01508 491 210 option 4

AGM

Our AGM is due in the Autumn and we want to know what you, our members, want to see. Do you have an idea of what could make our AGM better for everyone? Perhaps you would enjoy entertainment, food or want to suggest it's in the evening instead of the daytime. Any ideas or suggestions considered, so get in touch and let us know! The best way to tell us is to call or email Susan Waterfield 01508 491 210 opt 4 or susan.waterfield@equallives.org.uk

Changing places consultation

This consultation seeks views on how the government can increase provision of Changing Places toilets in specific new, large buildings commonly used by the public, as well as those undergoing building works.

Their proposed approach is to introduce a mandatory requirement for Changing Places toilets in Building Regulations.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changing-places-toilets>



St Martins are building a house for World Homeless Day on October 10th
A house made of wool. And we need your help!

Each 'brick' that builds the house will be a 1 meter length of woollen scarf. The house will be made of 4,700 of these lengths, each representing a person who is sleeping rough every night in this country over a year.

One in 8 of them will be black, to represent the 600 people who died on our streets last year.

When stitched together they will be made into a giant house that will be installed in Norwich Cathedral.

But we can't do it without a lot of help. If you can knit then please consider knitting a scarf. Or get together with friends and knit loads!

<https://stmartinhousing.org.uk/help-us/fundraising/knittedhouse/>



Congratulations to member Steve from Driving Miss Daisy on the arrival of his son!

We hope to see some pictures and hear the chosen name soon!

That's all for now, remember if you'd like to add an item of your own to the e-bulletin please reply to the membership@equallives.org.uk inbox or give us a call with the details. You can also send us something to promote on social media as well.

We love hearing what you've been up to so do get in touch.

All the best,

Development Team